### ACCESSIBILITY/VISITABILITY

Sapna V. Raj
Anthony Sledge
Memphis Fair Housing Center
(901) 432-4663
Memphis Center for Independent Living
(901) 726-6404

### Units Covered by the Fair Housing Act

- The design and construction requirements apply to "covered multifamily dwellings" designed and constructed for first occupancy after March 13, 1991
- All dwelling units in buildings containing four or more units, with an elevator
- All ground floor units in buildings containing four or more units, without an elevator

### **Covered Unit**

The Fair Housing Act does not require any renovations to existing buildings. Applies to new construction only -- after March 13, 1991.

#### Fair Housing Act-Seven Design and Construction Requirements

- 1. Accessible building entrance on an accessible route
- 2. Accessible and usable public and common use areas
- 3. Usable doors
- 4. Accessible routes into and through the covered unit
- 5. Light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats, and environmental controls in accessible locations
- 6. Reinforced walls in bathrooms for later installation of grab bars
- 7. Usable kitchens and bathrooms

### Who Is Liable?

#### Potential Respondents or Defendants

- Developers
- Architects
- Builders
- Engineers
- Landscape architects
- Contractors
- Corporate owners
- Successor owners
- Homeowner associations
- Others

### Important Measurements

- □ 1/4" Threshold
- 32" Door Clearance
- 36" Pathway
- 30"X48" Clear Floor Space, the #1, most important measurement?
- 48" Maximum Reach in height, switches etc
- 15" Minimum reach in height outlets
- less then 60" Small kitchen
- More then 60" Big Kitchen
- 40" Minimum Clearance counter/appliances in kitchens

#### Reasonable Modifications

Structural modifications can be requested by residents and applicants for properties that are not covered by the Act's design and construction requirements.

For example, in an older building - accessible ramp, widening doorways, or customizing a kitchen or bathroom.

# DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION: ACCESSIBLE BUILDING ENTRANCES ON AN ACCESSIBLE ROUTE



# DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION: ACCESSIBLE BUILDING ENTRANCES ON AN ACCESSIBLE ROUTE



# DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION: ACCESSIBLE BUILDING ENTRANCES ON AN ACCESSIBLE ROUTE



# DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION: ACCESSIBLE BUILDING ENTRANCES ON AN ACCESSIBLE ROUTE



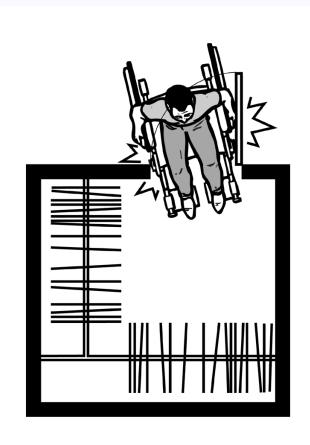
### **DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION: ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC AND COMMON USE AREAS**



#### DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION: ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC AND COMMON USE



# DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION: USABLE DOORS



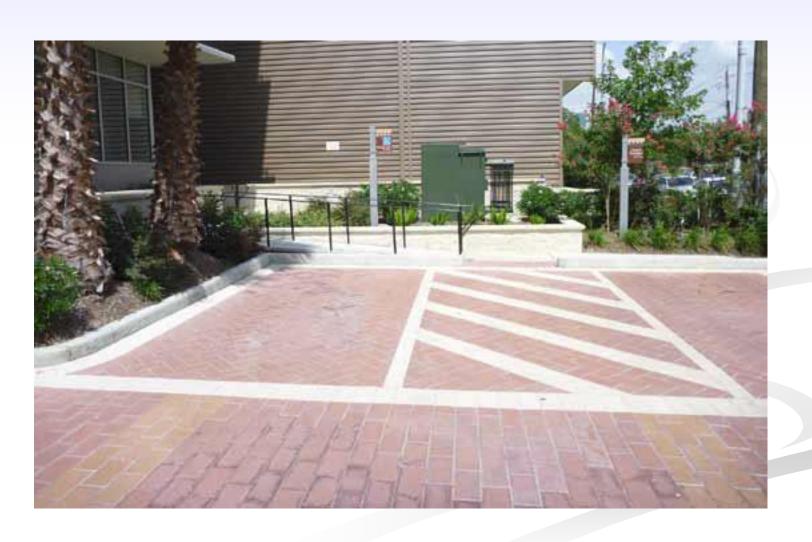
# DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION: ACCESSIBLE ROUTE INTO AND THROUGH UNIT



#### **DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION: USABLE KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS**



## Van accessible parking space



### **Parking**

- 2% of the number of parking spaces that serve the dwelling units.
- Spaces must be on shortest accessible route to the accessible building entrance

### Slopes, curb cuts etc.



# Measuring a slope



### Accessible Common Use Amenities?



### Barrier?



### **Doors**

usc. 34" to 36" country construction wide door ts may restrict the size 5'-0" placed in exterior o have a 5-foot wide indard 6-foot wide ot provide adequate r must still be pronch nominal clear on is to install a 36door coupled with an o provide equivalent al light and view. 32" nominal clear width for secondary exterior door

### Accessible Bathrooms





### **VISITABILITY**

- Growing trend nationwide that refers to singlefamily or owner-occupied housing designed in such a way that it can be lived in or visited by people who have trouble with steps or who use wheelchairs or walkers.
- Visitability differs from both full accessibility and universal design

### When is a house visitable?

- A house is visitable when it meets three basic requirements:
  - one zero-step entrance.
  - doors with 32 inches of clear passage space.
  - one bathroom on the main floor which you can get into in a wheelchair.

### ACCESSIBILITY/VISITABILITY

Sapna V. Raj
Anthony Sledge
Memphis Fair Housing Center
(901) 432-4663
Memphis Center for Independent Living
(901) 726-6404